

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0675164

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED APR 11 1979 JUN 18 1979  
DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Dyerville Mill

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

610 Manton Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Providence

STATE

Rhode Island

— VICINITY OF  
CODE

44

#2 Edward Beard

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

COUNTY

Providence

CODE

007

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Robert and William Lonardo

STREET & NUMBER

25 Dorrance Street

610 Manton Ave (5/23/79) (Angela Lynch)

CITY, TOWN

Providence

— VICINITY OF

STATE

Rhode Island 02909

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Providence City Hall

STREET & NUMBER

25 Dorrance Street

CITY, TOWN

Providence

STATE

Rhode Island

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Providence Broadbrush

DATE

July 1976 et seq.

— FEDERAL  STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

CITY, TOWN

150 Benefit Street, Providence, Rhode Island 02903

STATE

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

---

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Dyerville Mill is a stuccoed-stone structure located on the northern bank of the Woonasquatucket River. Although the mill is bordered on three sides by an urban late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century residential neighborhood, dense foliage and a steep hill to the north visually isolate it in a near-rural setting.

The factory was erected in 1835 as a three-and-a-half-story, L-shape structure with a simple gable roof and a four-and-a-half story tower at the outside corner of the L. Evenly spaced double-hung, six-over-six sash windows with granite sills and lintels punctuate the walls, which were originally stuccoed and scored in imitation of stone. An open, wood, arcuated belfry with Italianate detailing, probably added in the 1860s, caps the tower (photograph 1), which is connected by a covered wood walkway with an early twentieth-century building on Manton Avenue formerly used as the mill office. A stone, two-and-a-half-story picker house (photograph 3), located on the southwest side of the mill, and a one-story brick extension on the south, originally used as a weave shed, are nineteenth-century additions which form another L, creating a quadrangle (see site plan). A twentieth-century warehouse is attached to the brick addition.

The original open interior space is largely intact (photograph 5), with few new partitions erected. The original wood floors and "slow-burning" construction members remain exposed.

Much of the original water-power system remains in evidence. A long raceway formerly ran from a wooden dam on the Woonasquatucket River west of the mill. The dam is still in place, but the gates have been removed, and the race is only visible near the wood wheel house (photograph 4) on the northwest side of the building. A horizontal turbine and belt-driven generator remain in place at the wheel house, and a brick-and-wood boiler house survives on the northwest, but no steam engines remain.

A tall, yellow-brick, early twentieth-century stack displaying the name "Joslin Manufacturing Company" stands to the southwest of the mill building.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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CONTINUATION SHEET

1

ITEM NUMBER

7

PAGE

2

DYERVILLE  
POND

PLAT 34  
LOT 234

SITE OF  
TRENCH

MANTON  
AVENUE

KEY:

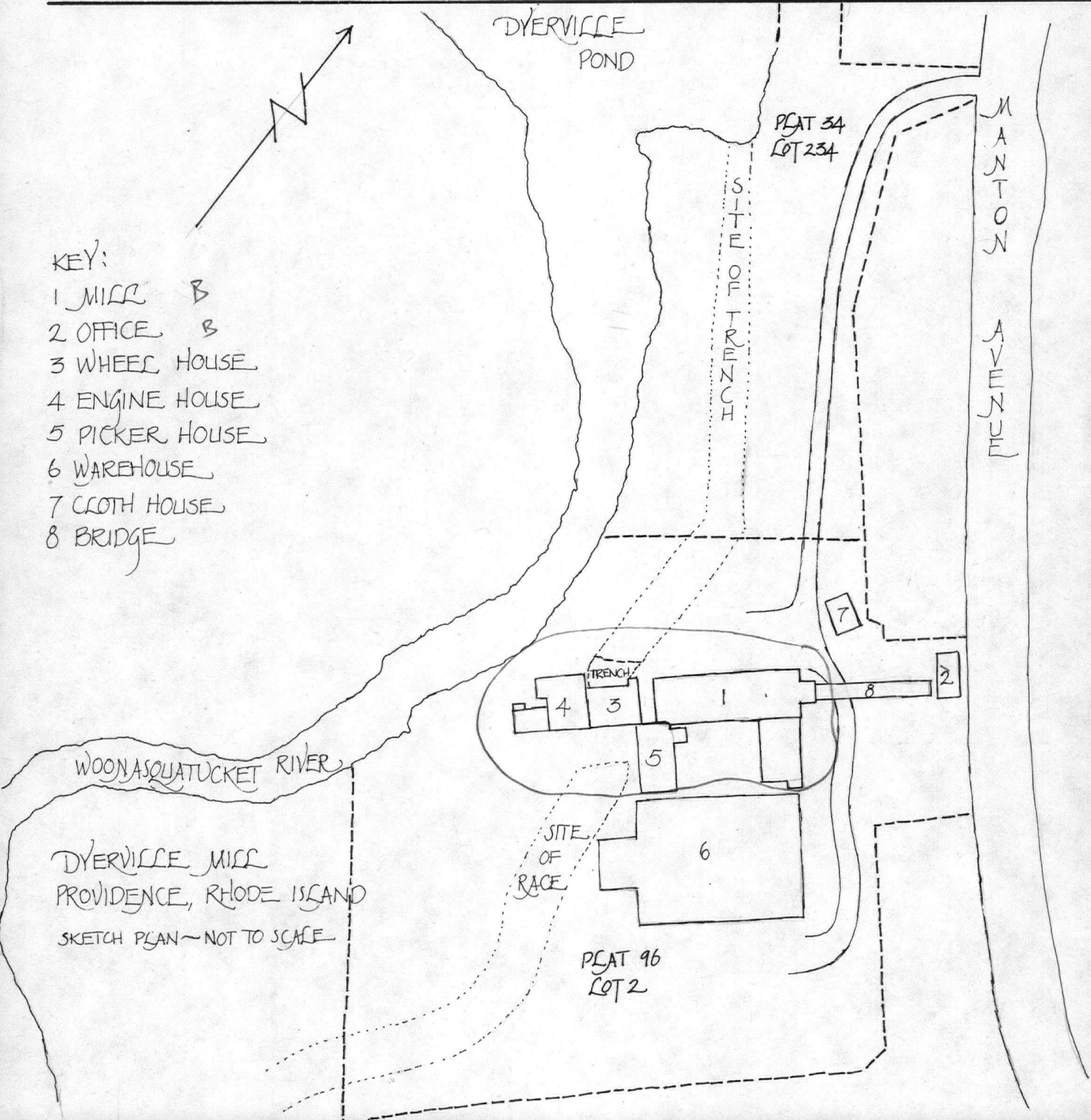
- 1 MILL B
- 2 OFFICE B
- 3 WHEEL HOUSE
- 4 ENGINE HOUSE
- 5 PICKER HOUSE
- 6 WAREHOUSE
- 7 CLOTH HOUSE
- 8 BRIDGE

WOONASQUATUCKET RIVER

DYERVILLE MILL  
PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND  
SKETCH PLAN ~ NOT TO SCALE

SITE  
OF  
RACE

PLAT 96  
LOT 2



# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES      1835

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Dyerville Mill, probably the oldest extant mill in Providence, was built in 1835 and continuously used for textile and textile-related industry for nearly one hundred years. The integrity of both the building and its site makes this an important and rare survivor of early textile industry development and mill architecture in Providence.

Architecturally the mill represents the shift from the first small, wood-frame industrial buildings, like Slater Mill in Pawtucket, to the larger masonry structures characteristic of Rhode Island's heavy nineteenth-century industrialization, such as the 1826 Slatersville Mill. Only two other early mills are known to remain in Providence, and both have been heavily altered and compromised by later construction. The nineteenth-century additions to the Dyerville Mill on the other hand, are architecturally in keeping with the original building.

The Rhode Island textile industry first developed in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries in the Blackstone and Pawtuxet Valleys. Providence lagged behind, with only four cotton mills by 1832. By 1840, however, twenty-six new cotton mills had opened, with much of this growth occurring along the water privileges of the Woonasquatucket River.

The Dyerville Mill was opened as part of this flurry of expansion by Elisha Dyer (1772-1854), a successful commission merchant, land owner, and banker. By the 1830s, however, diminishing returns apparently had prompted him to suspend his commission business and turn to textile production. The company survived the vagaries of the cotton-cloth market that caused the closing of all but eight Providence mills by 1850. In that year, the Dyerville Mill represented a capital investment of \$75,000, employed forty men and thirty women, and produced about \$50,000 worth of cloth annually. Dyer's son Elisha (1811-1906; Governor of Rhode Island, 1857-1859) was the agent in charge of operations from 1835 until his father's death. He remained the sole owner, agent, and proprietor until 1867, when he sold out to the Beckwith family.

(See cont. Sheet #2)

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The Biographical Cyclopedia of Representative Men of Rhode Island.  
 Hall, Joseph D. Biographical History of the Manufacturers and  
 Business Men of Rhode Island.  
 Haer Inventory, Rhode Island  
 Plat Card 883, Recorder of Deeds, City of Providence.  
 (see cont. sheet #3)

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY almost 5 acres

UTM REFERENCES

**46 33**

A	1 9	2 95	5 60	4 6	32	32 0	B					
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING					ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		
C							D					

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Providence Tax Assessor's Plat 96-Lot 2  
 and Plat 34 Lot 234 (land portion only)

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

William McKenzie Woodward

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission July 1978

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

150 Benefit Street 401-277-2678

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Providence Rhode Island

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL  STATE  LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

*Frederick C. Williams*

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

April 2, 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*Charles Adams*

DATE

6.8.79

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

*Maria De Souza*

DATE

6/18/79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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CONTINUATION SHEET

2

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PAGE

2

The years after the Civil War saw Rhode Island textile industry rapidly expanding to a position of regional importance, and the Dyerville Mill played a significant role in this development. Truman Beckwith, owner of the largest cotton brokerage in Providence, and his son Amos, who acted as agent for the mill, incorporated the concern as the Dyerville Manufacturing Company. By 1870, Dyerville Mill, by then partially run by steam, was capitalized at \$250,000; contained 15,000 spindles and 274 power looms; employed forty men, forty-eight women, and twenty-four children; and produced \$258,650 worth of cotton cloth.

The twentieth century brought, at first, diversification of textile production followed, ultimately, by the closing of many mills as production moved south closer to the source of supply. The Joslin Manufacturing Company purchased the mill in 1903 and converted it for the production of braid and shoelaces, a shift in interest toward novelties quite common in early twentieth-century textile production. The mill continued to manufacture these products until the 1930s, when it passed to a wholesale grocery company, which--though no longer the owner--continues to operate at this location. In recent years, the mill has housed several small, light industries.

Rhode Island textile industry's early growth, its rapid expansion in the late nineteenth century, and its decline in the mid-twentieth century are well chronicled in the Dyerville Mill. And while the expansion and adaptation of most mill complexes often destroys the integrity of both the structure and its setting, this mill is remarkable for its lack of obtrusive alteration. The Dyerville Mill is unique in Providence in its ability to illustrate the development of the Rhode Island textile industry.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

3

ITEM NUMBER

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PAGE

2

Zuckerman, B. Michael. "Dyerville Mill: A Vision of Our Past."  
Providence Preservation Society News. Volume XXII (September 1977).  
p. 6.

Property Dyerville Mill

State R.I. (Providence) Working Number 4.11.79. 799

**TECHNICAL**

Photos 5  
Maps 1

**CONTROL**

*pk*  
OK 4.11.79  
**HISTORIAN**

**ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN**

**ARCHEOLOGIST**

**OTHER**

*a regionally significant, 19th century textile mill that retains integrity of structure*

**HAER**

Inventory \_\_\_\_\_  
Review 6/14/79  
*accept*  
*Don Jackson*

THE MILL IS SIGNIFICANT TO INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN PROVIDENCE AND IS PROBABLY THE OLDEST MILL EXTANT. FURTHER BOTH THE BUILDING AND SITE  RETAIN A REMARKABLE DEGREE OF INTEGRITY. IT REFLECTS THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE RHODE ISLAND TEXTILE INDUSTRY. GOOD NOMINATION.

**REVIEW UNIT CHIEF**

**ACCEPT**  
*Mac Douglas*  
6/19/79

**BRANCH CHIEF**

**KEEPER**

National Register Write-up \_\_\_\_\_  
Federal Register Entry 7-3-79

Send-back \_\_\_\_\_  
Re-submit \_\_\_\_\_

Entered JUN 18 1979



SEAFOOD EXPRESS  
BOSTON, MA

WALL STAM

DYERVILLE MILL  
PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND

Providence County

Photographer: Warren Jagger

Date: Summer 1978

Negative: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

Tower, view from the west

APR 11 1979

#1 of 5

Nº 1

JUN 18 1979



APR 11 1979

DYERVILLE MILL  
PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND  
*PROVIDENCE County*  
Photographer: Warren Jagger

#2075

Date: Summer 1978

Negative: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

General view from south

Nº 2

JUN 18 1979



APR 11 1979

DYERVILLE MILL  
PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND

*Providence County*  
Photographer: Warren Jagger

*# 3075*

Date: Summer 1978

Negative: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

Picker House, view from south

Nº3

JUN 18 1979



APR 11 1979

#4 of 5

DYERVILLE MILL  
PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND

*Providence County*  
Photographer: Warren Jagger

Date: Summer 1978

Negative: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

Wheel House, view from west

N° 4

JUN 18 1979



APR 11 1979

#5075

DYERVILLE MILL  
PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND

Providence County

Photographer: Warren Jagger

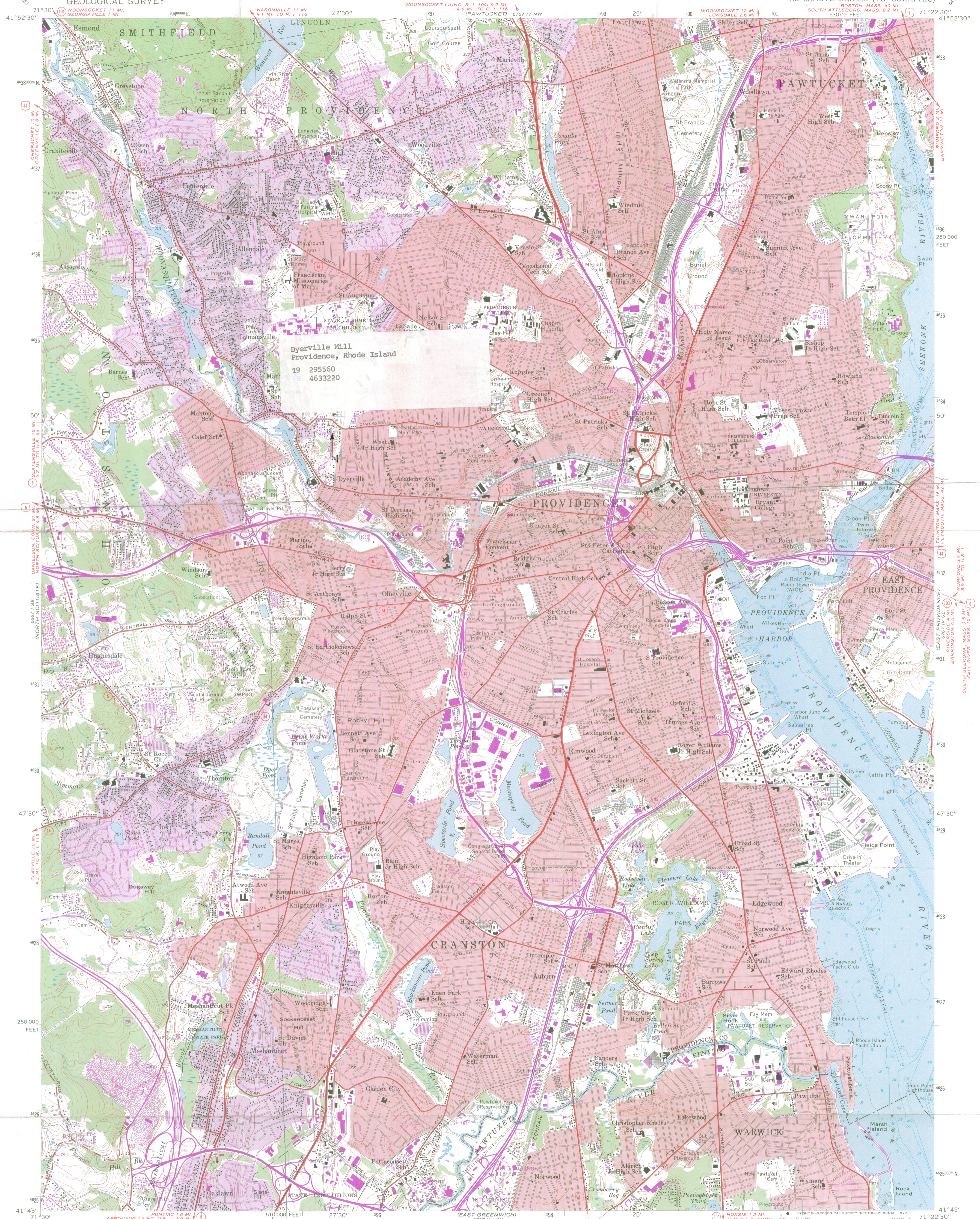
Date: Summer 1978

Negative: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

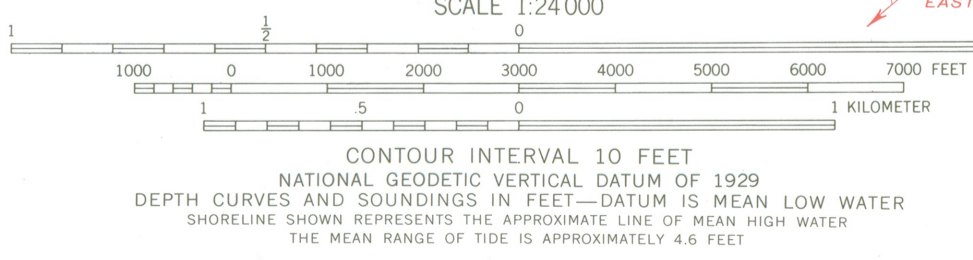
Interior

Nº5

JUN 18 1979



Dyerville Mill  
Providence, Rhode Island  
19 295560  
4633220



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt

U.S. Route      State Route  
Interstate Route

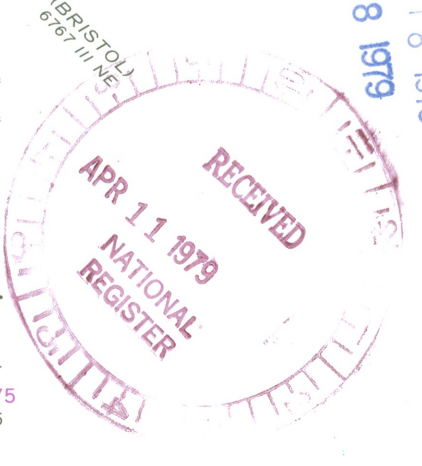
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and USCE  
Culture and drainage in part compiled from aerial photographs taken 1955. Topography taken from 1:31 680 scale map of Providence 7.5 minute quadrangle, surveyed 1934-1935. Revised 1957  
Hydrography compiled from USC&GS charts 278 (1954) and 352 (1957)  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Rhode Island coordinate system  
100-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 19, shown in blue  
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown  
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

VILLAGE GREEN ASSOCIATES, Inc.  
LAND SURVEYING PLANNING TECH. SERVICES  
11 NORTH RD., PEACE DALE, RHODE ISLAND 02883

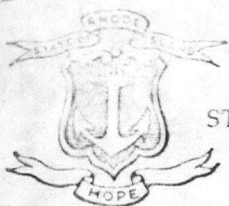
THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs taken 1970 and 1975. This information not field checked  
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas

PROVIDENCE, R. I.  
N4145-W7122.5/7.5  
1957  
PHOTOREVISED 1970 AND 1975  
AMS 6767 IV SW-SERIES V815



JUN 18 1979  
6161 81



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

HISTORICAL PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
Old State House  
150 Benefit Street  
Providence, R. I. 02903  
(401) 277-2678



April 2, 1979

Dr. William J. Murtagh, Keeper  
National Register of Historic Places  
Office of Archeology and Historic  
Preservation  
Heritage Conservation and  
Recreation Service  
440 G Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20243

Dear Dr. Murtagh:

Enclosed are completed nominations for the following  
Rhode Island properties:

Little Tonomi/Sunset Hill Amendment\*  
to Miantonomi Memorial Park and World War I  
Memorial Tower, Hillside Avenue, Newport

Thomas H. Hughes House, 403 Central Avenue,  
Johnston

Dyerville Mill, 610 Manton Avenue, Providence

Sunset Hill (preferred name) is located in Newport  
County, Congressional District 1 represented by the  
Honorable Fernand St. Germain. The Hughes House and  
Dyerville Mill are located in Providence County and  
both are within Congressional District 2 represented  
by the Honorable Edward Beard. The Rhode Island Review  
Board has reviewed and approved these properties for  
nomination. The owners of Dyerville Mill and the  
Hughes House are interested in applying for HCRS  
grants-in-aid, so I hope that these nominations can be  
expedited.

Pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act of  
1966, as State Historic Preservation Officer for Rhode  
Island, I hereby nominate Little Tonomi/Sunset Hill  
Amendment to Miantonomi Park and World War I Memorial



# United States Department of the Interior

HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20243

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H32-NR

APR 17 1979

Dear Property Owner:

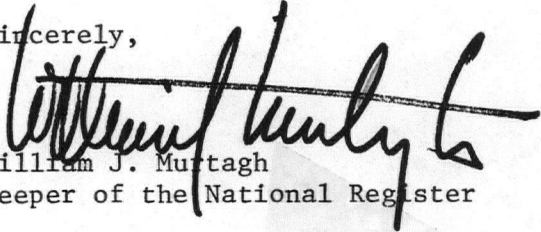
The property you own has been nominated for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The National Register is the government's official list of historic buildings and other cultural resources worthy of preservation. This nomination is pending in our office.

If your property is depreciable and is listed in the National Register, there are certain benefits and provisions of the Tax Reform Act of 1976 that may apply to you. We are enclosing information about this law and a general description of the National Register program.

Soon we will be considering whether your property should be listed, using as our guidelines the "Criteria for Evaluation" shown in the enclosed material. If you wish to comment on whether your property should be listed, we would be pleased to hear from you. Send your comments within 30 days of the date of this letter to me, Dr. William J. Murtagh, Keeper of the National Register, Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service, Department of the Interior, Pension Building, 440 G Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20243 (Attn: NOM). Please include the name and address of the property as shown on the address label on this letter. If you have questions about the National Register program or the enclosed material, you should also address them to me.

In the enclosed material you will note references to standards for rehabilitating old buildings. These standards are a list of do's and don'ts for people who are fixing up old buildings. If the owner of a building listed in the National Register, either individually or as part of a district, wishes to take advantage of the Tax Reform Act benefits, these standards must be followed. A copy of these standards is available from Technical Preservation Services, Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service, Department of the Interior, Pension Building, 440 G Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20243. Questions about the standards should also be addressed to that same office.

Sincerely,

  
William J. Murtagh  
Keeper of the National Register

Robert and William Lonardo  
25 Dorrance St.  
Providence, RI 02909

Re: Dyerville Mill

4/11



# United States Department of the Interior

HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20243

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H32-NR

APR 17 1979

Dear Property Owner:

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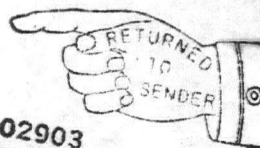
**UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20243**

**OFFICIAL BUSINESS  
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300**

Robert and William Lonardo  
25 Dorrance St.  
Providence, RI 02909

Re: Dyerville Mill

*W. J. Murtagh*  
1  
National Register



02903  
ADDRESSEE UNKNOWN

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE RHODE ISLAND

Date Entered JUN 18 1979

Name

Location

Dyerville Mill

Providence  
Providence County

Shakspeare Hall (Sprague-Knight Building)

Providence  
Providence County

Also Notified

Honorable John H. Chafee

Honorable Claiborne Pell  
Honorable Edward P. Beard

State Historic Preservation Officer  
Mr. Frederick C. Williamson  
Director, Rhode Island Department  
of Community Affairs  
150 Washington Street  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

NR Byers/bjr 6/21/79

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401.